

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

It is respectfully requested that the amendments to the above-referenced application, presented herein, be entered prior to examination.

The specification has been amended herein to correct the "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" section to include the entire lineage from which the present application claims benefit of and priority to.

By way of this amendment, claims 1, 15, 22, 25 and 26 having been amended herein.

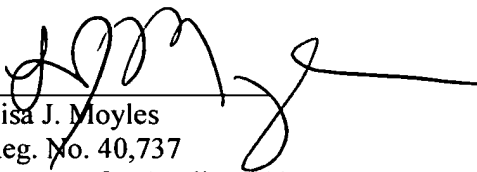
It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

An early and favorable response on the merits is earnestly solicited.

It is believed that no fee is due for entry of the present amendment, however, if it is determined that a fee is required for entry of the present amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0550 in the name of United States Surgical Corporation.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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